AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended)   A system for assisting a user in navigating through a performance of a task, the task including a plurality of sub-tasks, the system comprising:

a graphical user interface comprising:

a list of two or more sub-tasks associated with the task, the list including for each sub-task:

an identifier, and

a datum corresponding to a parameter, and

two or more panels, each panel associated with a respective sub-task in the list;

and

a task performance component configured to:

control a presentation of the two or more panels in the graphical user interface,

for each of the two or more sub-tasks in the list, enable a user to perform the sub-task by entering information into the respective panel associated with the sub-task as the sub-task is presented,

enable the user to perform the two or more sub-tasks in a temporal order that is independent of a positional order in which the two or more sub-tasks are listed in the list,

detect information entered by the user in a panel associated with a sub-task,

based on the information entered by the user in the panel associated with the sub-task, determine a change in a datum corresponding to a parameter of another sub-task, and automatically update the list to update the datum of the other sub-task,

determine a change in a datum corresponding to a parameter of the sub-task based on the information entered in the panel associated with the sub-task,

dynamically determine a new sub-task that is required to be performed by the user to complete the task, the new sub-task being determined based on the change in the datum corresponding to the parameter of the sub-task, and

automatically update the list to include the new sub-task.

2. (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the list is operable, for each of the two or more sub-tasks in the list, to control a display of the information entered by the user in the respective panel of the sub-task.

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the list is operable to enable the user to perform the two or more sub-tasks in a temporal order in which the user selects the two or more sub-tasks from the list.

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the task performance component is operable to determine one or more of the sub-tasks required to perform the task based on the information entered by the user in the respective panels of at least one of the two or more sub-tasks.

7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, the task performance component is operable, in the event that information already has been entered by the user for a first sub-task, to determine that the first sub-task is no longer to be included in the list and to control notifying the user that confirming an acceptance of the information entered in the first panel will result in the information entered for the second sub-task being discarded.

9. (original)   The system of claim 1, wherein the system is operable to perform the task of creating one or more rules of an access control sub-task list for a network device.

10. (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the list is operable to vertically orient the list on the graphical user interface.

11. (currently amended)   A computer-implemented method of assisting a user in navigating through a performance of a task, the task including a plurality of sub-tasks, the method comprising acts of:

    (A) presenting two or more sub-tasks on a graphical user interface, each of the two or more sub-tasks displayed in a respective panel;

(B) for each of the two or more sub-tasks, enabling the user to perform the sub-task by entering information into the respective panel associated with the sub-task as the sub-task is presented;

(C) while the two or more sub-tasks are being presented, displaying a list of the two or more sub-tasks to the user on the graphical user interface, the list including for each sub-task an identifier and a datum corresponding to a parameter;

(D) enabling the user to perform the two or more sub-tasks in a temporal order that is independent of a positional order in which the two or more sub-tasks are listed in the list;

(E) detecting information entered by the user in a panel associated with a sub-task;

(F) based on the information entered by the user in the panel associated with the sub-task, determining a change in a datum corresponding to a parameter of another sub-task, and automatically updating the list to update the datum of the other sub-task;

(G[[D]]) changing a datum corresponding to a parameter of a sub-task based on information entered by the user in a panel associated with the sub-task;

(H[[E]]) dynamically determining a new sub-task that is required to be performed by the user to complete the task, the new sub-task being determined based on the change in the datum corresponding to the parameter of the sub-task; and

(I[[F]]) automatically updating the list to include the new sub-task.

12. (previously presented)   The method of claim 11, wherein act (C) includes, for each of the two or more sub-tasks, displaying the information entered by the user in the panel associated with the sub-task.

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended)   The method of claim 11, further comprising:

(J[[G]]) enabling the user to perform the two or more sub-tasks in a temporal order in which the user selects the two or more sub-tasks from the list.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended)   The method of claim 11, further comprising:

(J[[G]]) determining one or more of the sub-tasks required to perform the task based on information entered by the user in the respective panels of at least one of the two or more sub-tasks.

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended)   The method of claim 11, wherein information already has been entered by the user for a first sub-task and act (H[[E]]) includes determining that the first sub-task is no longer to be included in the list, the method further comprising an act of:

(J[[G]]) notifying the user that confirming an acceptance of the information entered in the first panel will result in the information entered for the second sub-task being discarded.

19. (original)   The method of claim 11, wherein performing the task includes creating one or more rules of an access control sub-task list for a network device.

20. (previously presented)   The method of claim 11, wherein act (C) includes vertically-orienting the list on the graphical user interface.

21. (currently amended)   A system for assisting a user in navigating through a performance of a task, the task including a plurality of sub-tasks, the system comprising:

a task performance component to control the presentation of two or more sub-tasks on a graphical user interface, each of the two or more sub-tasks displayed in a respective panel, and to enable the user, for each of the two or more sub-tasks, to perform the sub-task by entering information into the respective panel of the sub-task as the sub-task is presented;

a list of the two or more sub-tasks presented on the graphical user interface while the two or more sub-tasks are being presented, the list including for each sub-task an identifier and a datum corresponding to a parameter;

means for enabling the user to perform the two or more sub-tasks in a temporal order that is independent of a positional order in which the two or more sub-tasks are listed in the list;

means for displaying, within at least one of the two or more sub-tasks in the list, a datum corresponding to a parameter of the sub-task;

means for detecting information entered by the user in a panel associated with a sub-task;

<u>means for determining a change in a datum corresponding to a parameter of another sub-task based on the information entered by the user in the panel associated with the sub-task, and automatically updating the list to update the datum of the other sub-task;</u>

means for changing, for at least one of the two or more sub-tasks in the list, the datum corresponding to the parameter of the sub-task displayed based on information entered by the user in a panel associated with the sub-task;

means for operating the task performance component to dynamically determine a new sub-task that is required to be performed by the user to complete the task, the new sub-task being determined based on the change in the datum corresponding to the parameter of the sub-task; and

means for automatically updating the list to include the new sub-task.

22. (currently amended)   A computer-readable medium having computer-readable signals stored thereon that define instructions that, as a result of being executed by a computer, control the computer to perform a method of assisting a user in navigating through performance of a task, the task including a plurality of sub-tasks, the method comprising acts of:

(A) presenting two or more sub-tasks on a graphical user interface, each of the two or more sub-tasks displayed in a respective panel;

(B) for each of the two or more sub-tasks, enabling the user to perform the sub-task by entering information into the respective panel associated with the sub-task as the sub-task is presented;

(C) while the two or more sub-tasks are being presented, displaying a list of the two or more sub-tasks to the user on the graphical user interface, the list including for each sub-task an identifier and a datum corresponding to a parameter;

<u>(D) enabling the user to perform the two or more sub-tasks in a temporal order that is independent of a positional order in which the two or more sub-tasks are listed in the list;</u>

<u>(E) detecting information entered by the user in a panel associated with a sub-task;</u>

<u>(F) based on the information entered by the user in the panel associated with the sub-task, determining a change in a datum corresponding to a parameter of another sub-task, and automatically updating the list to update the datum of the other sub-task;</u>

(<u>G</u>[[D]]) changing a datum corresponding to a parameter of a sub-task based on information entered by the user in a panel associated with the sub-task;

(H[[E]]) dynamically determining a new sub-task that is required to be performed by the user to complete the task, the new sub-task being determined based on the change in the datum corresponding to the parameter of the sub-task; and

(I[[F]]) automatically updating the list to include the new sub-task.

23. (previously presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein act (C) includes, for each of the two or more sub-tasks, displaying the information entered by the user in the panel associated with the sub-task.

24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended)   The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the method further comprises:

(J[[G]]) enabling the user to perform the two or more sub-tasks in a temporal order in which the user selects the two or more sub-tasks from the list.

26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended)   The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the method further comprises:

(J[[G]]) determining one or more of the sub-tasks required to perform the task based on information entered by the user in the respective panels of at least one of the two or more sub-tasks.

28. (canceled)

29. (currently amended)   The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein information already has been entered by the user for a first sub-task and act (H[[E]]) includes determining that the first sub-task is no longer to be included in the list, the method further comprising an act of:

(J[[G]]) notifying the user that confirming an acceptance of the information entered in the first panel will result in the information entered for the second sub-task being discarded.

30. (original)   The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein performing the task includes creating one or more rules of an access control sub-task list for a network device.

31. (previously presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein act (C) includes vertically-orienting the list on the graphical user interface.

32. (new)   The system of claim 1, wherein the other sub-task is located higher than the sub-task in the positional order in which the two or more sub-tasks are listed in the list.

33. (new)   The system of claim 1, wherein the other sub-task is located lower than the sub-task in the positional order in which the two or more sub-tasks are listed in the list.